



CHARLES COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Charles county is located on the Southern Maryland peninsula between the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers in the Atlantic coastal Plain. Most of the land area is drained by tributaries of the Potomac River and elevations range from a few feet to more than 200 above sea level.

Agricultural lands in Charles County occupy approximately 19 percent of the county's total land area of 295,095 acres. Of the land in farms, 30 percent of it is woodland.

Tobacco is, and has been for over 300 years, the major cash crop. It is produced on 28 percent of the farms, and annual production is about 1.3 million pounds. The market value of tobacco was \$3.7 million for the 1997 crop.

Other field crops include corn, soybeans, and small grain. These crops are sold primarily as cash grains, but also support animal enterprises. Swine is the most important livestock enterprise.

CHARLES COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Crop	Year	Unit	Acreage Harvested	Average Yield	Total Production
Corn for Grain	1997	Bu.	6,000	89.1	534,400
	1998		5,400	79.7	430,300
	1999		6,700	58.7	393,300
Corn for Silage	1997	Tons.	*	*	*
	1998		*	*	*
	1999		*	*	*
Soybeans	1997	Bu.	9,400	28.2	265,000
	1998		7,300	18.1	132,000
	1999		7,900	23.1	182,500
Wheat	1997	Bu.	3,500	59.1	207,000
	1998		3,800	40.3	153,000
	1999		3,000	48.0	144,000
Hay	1997	Tons.	4,500	2.3	10,300
	1998		3,700	3.1	11,600
	1999		3,100	2.5	7,600
Barley	1997	Bu.	1,500	1,397.4	2,096,100
	1998		1,000	1,315.6	1,315,600
	1999		1,200	1,490.0	1,787,900

Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 1999

Corn	17	Oats	3
Wheat	18	Barley	3
Hay	14	Soybeans	16
Tobacco	2		

Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹

Cattle	14
Hogs	13
Sheep	14
Milk Cows	15

CHARLES COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Farm Numbers & Size ¹		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		601	496	410
Average Size (acres)		113	120	136
Land in Farms (acres)		67,655	59,389	55,928
Livestock (Number on Farms) ¹		1987	1992	1997
Cattle Inventory	Jan. 1	3,095	3,064	3,174
Milk Cows		173	88	108
Hog Inventory	Dec. 1	7,855	4,407	1,553
Sheep Inventory	Jan. 1	813	389	391
Value of Sales ¹		1987	1992	1997

----- Thousand Dollars -----

All Products	8,278	9,939	10,816
Crops	5,985	7,996	9,364
Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products	2,263	1,943	1,452

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.
² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
³ Unranked - Data not published.
⁴ Revised.
* Acreage too small to publish .

MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 1999

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP. (F)	NORMAL 1961-1990	TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES)	NORMAL 1961-1990
January	39.0	33.3	5.20	3.46
February	39.4	36.3	2.20	3.38
March	43.7	45.7	4.82	3.97
April	55.7	54.4	3.17	3.41
May	63.9	63.9	0.63	4.12
June	71.6	71.9	2.23	4.06
July	78.8	76.2	2.21	4.22
August	75.8	74.6	6.61	4.06
September	67.9	67.9	11.75	3.75
October	55.2	56.8	3.50	3.43
November	52.3	47.6	1.45	3.51
December	40.8	38.3	2.25	3.28
Annual	57.0	55.9	46.02	42.27

Number frost free days for 1999	212
Normal frost free days 1951-1980	180 <i>(1961-1990 Not available)</i>
Highest temperature 07-3199	97
Lowest temperature 01-06-99	7

MD Agricultural Statistics Service
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone: (410) 841-5740
Fax #: (410) 841-5755
E-Mail: nass-md@nass.usda.gov
Home Page: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

Charles County Extension Service
9375 Chesapeake Street, Suite 119
La Plata, Maryland 20646-4221
Phone: (301) 934-5403
Fax #: (301) 753-1857

Compiled by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service
and the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service.